

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0002], [0004], [0006], [0007], [0008], [0009], [0012], with the following rewritten paragraphs:

[0002] For example, at a construction site etc., it is necessary to ~~perform the work of cleaning~~ clean up water pooled on the floor of the building etc. so as to remove this obstacle ~~to~~ from the construction work.

In the past, a drain cleaner called a "pusher" was used for this cleanup work (for example, Patent Document 1).

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a conventional drain cleaner, while FIG. 11 is a view of an example of its use.

As shown in FIG. 10, this drain cleaner 100 was comprised of a wide plate member 101 and a handle 102 attached to the center of the back of this plate member 101. As shown in FIG. 11, a worker gripped the handle 102 and pushed the water W of a puddle by the plate member 101 to a predetermined drain etc. to clean up the water.

[0004] However, the above-mentioned conventional drain cleaner had the following problem.

Since each drain cleaner 100 is designed to be used by a single worker, there is a limit to ~~the extent by which~~ widen the plate member 101 ~~can be enlarged~~ in width. For this reason, when there are a large number of puddles or a large puddle on the floor, a large number of workers have to pick up drain cleaners 100 and line up in order to perform the water cleanup work. The work therefore requires manpower and time. Further, the drain cleaner 100 is comprised of a nondeforming plate member 101 and handle 102, so is bulky and poor in portability. This was extremely inconvenient for storage or transport of the drain cleaner 100.

[0006] To solve this problem, the drain cleaner as set forth in ~~claim 1~~ the first aspect is provided with an equal width strip body having a handle at its front end and a reel body having a rotary member to which a rear end of the strip body is attached and reeling in or playing out the strip body to or from the rotary member by rotating this rotary member.

By this configuration, two workers can align themselves across a puddle, one worker

can grip the handle of the front end of the strip body played out from the reel body, and the other worker can hold the reel body. If, in this state, the strip body is dropped down to the floor and the two workers pass across the puddle, the strip body on the floor will enter the puddle and will be kept standing in the state with its bottom edge brought into contact with the floor at the bottom of the water. Due to this, if pulling the strip body to a predetermined location, the strip body will convey the water of the puddle on the floor to a predetermined location.

[0007] Further, the second aspect of the invention ~~of claim 2~~ provides a drain cleaner as set forth in ~~claim 1~~ the first aspect wherein at least one edge of the strip body is provided with a flexible member with a high ability to closely contact a floor etc. along a long direction of the strip body.

Due to this configuration, since the flexible member closely contacts the floor at the bottom of the water, the water will not escape from the bottom of the strip body.

[0008] Note that the flexible member ~~need~~ needs only to have a close contacting ability and may be made of any material. Therefore, as a preferred example, the third aspect of the invention ~~of claim 3~~ provides a drain cleaner as set forth in claim 1 wherein the flexible member is a rubber member.

[0009] As explained above, the drain cleaner of the present invention is comprised of a strip body and a reel body for reeling in or playing out this strip body to and from a rotary member. At the time of non-use, the strip body can be reeled into the reel body, so the device is superior in portability. As a result, it is extremely convenient for storage or transport.

Further, since just two workers can perform the water cleanup work for puddles etc. on large floors, the time consumed for cleanup work can be shortened and the manpower can be reduced.

In particular, according to the second and third aspects of the invention ~~of claim 2 and claim 3~~, since the flexible member closely contacts the floor etc. at the bottom of the water, there is the effect that substantially complete cleanup of water from puddles is possible.

[0012] FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of the reel body 3. This reel body 3 is a device for reeling in or playing out the strip body 2. As shown in FIG. 1 to FIG. 3 as well, it is comprised of a cross-shaped frame 30, a shaft 31 serving as a rotary member rotatably attached to the frame 30, and a handle 32 fixed to the outside of the frame 30.

Specifically, as shown in FIG. 2, the two ends 31a, 31a of the shaft 31 are rotatably fit into center holes 30a of the frame 30. A reel-in and reel-out lever 33 is attached to one end 31a of the shaft 31. Further, as shown in FIG. 4, the rear end 2c of the strip body 2 ~~if~~ is fixed to the shaft 31.

Due to this, by turning the lever 33, the strip body 2 can be reeled into the reel body 3. Further, by holding the handle 4 and pulling the strip body 2, the strip body 2 can be played out from the reel body 3.

Please delete from page 6, line 3 from the bottom to page 7, last line.

Please change page 3, line 22, as follows:

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is an external view of a drain cleaner according to an embodiment of the present invention.

FIG. 2 is a plan view of a drain cleaner.

FIG. 3 is a cross-sectional view along the line A-A of FIG. 2.

FIG. 4 is a cross-sectional view of a reel body.

FIG. 5 is a schematic view of an example of water cleanup work using the drain cleaner of this embodiment.

FIG. 6 is a schematic view of the state where the strip body of the drain cleaner traps water.

FIG. 7 is a cross-sectional view of the state of close contact of the strip body and the floor.

FIG. 8 is a cross-sectional view of the state of close contact of the strip body and a recessed part.

FIG. 9 is a schematic view of the state of the water trapped by the strip body being pushed into a drain.

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a conventional drain cleaner.

FIG. 11 is a view of an example of use of a conventional drain cleaner.

BEST MODE FOR WORKING THE INVENTION

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF A PREFERRED EMBODIMENT